

LIBRARY

WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

BY

THOMAS U. MERCER, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE WHISTON
RURAL DISTRICT.

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

St. Helens Reporter, Printers.

WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

BY

THOMAS U. MERCER, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE WHISTON
RURAL DISTRICT.

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

St. Helen's Reporter, Printers.

WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Officers:—

Medical Officer of Health:

T. U. MERCER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector: W. H. BONE, C.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: A. RIGBY, C.R.S.I.

Sanitary Engineer: W. GARBUTT.

Annual Report for 1944.

The report is curtailed, as in previous war years but certain details are now to be published, such as population, rateable value, etc., which were withheld in the other years.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres): 29,440. Population (Census 1931): 22,864.

Registrar-General's estimate of Resident population, mid-1944: 32,280.

Number of inhabited houses—

(a) Census, 1931 4,808.

(b) End of 1944, according to Rate Books 9,487.

Rateable value: £195,666. Sum represented by a penny rate: £815.

Social conditions, including chief industries carried on in the area:—

The inhabitant are mostly of the working class. The chief industries are agriculture, coal mining, brass founding and stove making, and, during the war, munitions.

Extent of unemployment: Practically none.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment: None.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year: None.

Any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health: None.

Any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults: None.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
LIVE BIRTHS	398	352	750
Legitimate	383	342	725
Illegitimate	15	10	25
STILL BIRTHS	7	10	17
Legitimate	7	7	14
Illegitimate	—	3	3
DEATHS OF INFANTS—			
Under one year of age	26	16	42
Legitimate	26	16	42
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population			23.26
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)			23.41

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT IN 1944.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
ALL CAUSES	190	163	353
Scarlet Fever	1	0	1
Diphtheria	1	0	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	8	2	10
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	2	4
Syphilis	2	0	2
Influenza	2	0	2
Cancer of Facial cavity and Œsophagus (males), Uterus (females)	3	3	6
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	8	5	13
Cancer of Breast	0	6	6
Cancer of other sites	10	8	18
Diabetes	2	1	3
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	13	22	35
Heart Disease	36	34	70
Other diseases of circulatory system.....	4	4	8
Bronchitis	20	4	24
Pneumonia	11	6	17
Other respiratory diseases	1	0	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	1	3
Diarrhœa (under two years)	5	5	10
Appendicitis	1	0	1
Other digestive diseases	1	2	3
Nephritis	4	6	10
Maternal causes other than Sepsis.....	0	1	1
Premature Birth	7	2	9
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, etc.	4	5	9
Suicide	2	1	3
Road Traffic accidents	2	2	4
Other violent causes	8	6	14
All other causes	30	35	65

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health: T. U. Mercer.

Special diplomas or certificates of qualification: M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Whole or part-time officer of the Local Authority: Part-time.

Other public appointments held by him: None.

Is he in private practice?—Yes.

Sanitary Inspectors and their qualifications:

W. H. Bone, C.R.S.I. Whole-time.

A. Rigby, C.R.S.I. Whole-time.

Other Public Health Officers: None.

Laboratory facilities: None.

Ambulance facilities: There have been no changes and arrangements appear to be sufficient.

Nursing in the Home—Developments: None.

Hospitals in the District:—

(a) Public Hospitals: No change.

(b) Voluntary Hospitals: No change.

Institutional provision in the area for:—

Unmarried mothers: Whiston County Hospital, by Lancashire
County Council.

Illegitimate infants: ditto.

Homeless children: ditto.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY—

Particulars of any new sources of public supply: None.
Is supply of district satisfactory?—

(a) In quality: Yes.

(b) In quantity: Yes.

For some time there was a shortage of water in the Parish of Hale, but the difficulty has now been overcome and the supply is satisfactory.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination: None.

Bacteriological examinations and Chemical analyses: Done by supplying authorities.

Extension during the year: None.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE—

Any important extension of sewerage: None.

Progress made in improving character and sufficiency of arrangement for drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal in all parts of the area: A scheme for the reconstruction of sewers and sewage disposal works has been submitted to the Ministry of Health, for the Township of Rainhill.

RIVERS AND STREAMS—

Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams: Samples of sewage and trade effluents occasionally taken and submitted for analysis.

Sources and nature of pollution: From sewage works and chemical works.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION at end of 1944—

Privy middens.—Number of middens: 967.

No. of closets attached to these middens: 1,143.

Number of Pail Closets 102

Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) 399

Number of movable ashbins 6,522

Number of houses on water carriage system 7,921

Number of fresh water closets 8,138

Number of waste water closets None

Conversions during 1944: None.

PUBLIC CLEANSING—

Extensions or improvements during year: Two new refuse vehicles were purchased, one to replace worn-out vehicle and an additional one to meet the extended needs of the refuse disposal service.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS during 1944—

Number of premises visited: 393.

Defects or nuisances—Number discovered: 88. Number abated: 72.

Number of notices served—Informal: 40. Statutory: 3.

Legal proceedings: None.

SHOPS AND OFFICES—

Particulars of action taken under provisions of:—

(a) Shop Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences: None.

(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc.: None.

CAMPING SITES (other than Military)—

Number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1944: None.

SMOKE ABATEMENT—

Action taken with regard to smoke abatement: None.

Particulars of any co-operative action with industry: None.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS—

None in district.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS—

Methods employed for the eradication of bed bugs: Fumigation with SO_2 , and spraying with Zaldeayde.

SCHOOLS—

(a) Sanitary condition: Generally satisfactory.

(b) Water supply: All from public mains. Condition: Satisfactory.

OFFENSIVE TRADES—

Number of premises: None.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937—

Observations on the administration of the Act. Conditions fair.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES—

Number on register: None.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS—

Number on register: None.

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC—

Action taken or required: None.

UNDERGROUND SLEEPING ROOMS—

Any need for regulations: None.

CANAL BOATS—

Number inspected: None.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 & 1928—

Number of premises in district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold: None.

NOTABLE SANITARY IMPROVEMENT during 1944: None.

4.—HOUSING.**(a) STATISTICS.**

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED during the year: None.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts): 318.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose: 354.

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulation, 1925 & 1932: None.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation: None.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation: None.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers: 298.

3. Action under statutory powers during the year—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936: None.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts (with regard to housing defects only):—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied: 12.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners: 9.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners: None.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of Housing Acts, 1936: None.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936: None.

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year: Great many.

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein: Very many.

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein: Very many.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year: Considerable.

(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year: None.

(b) HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. General Observations as to Housing Conditions:

No change.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district: 30.

2. Sufficiency of supply of houses:

(a) Extent of shortage: Very considerable all round and very great in some parts.

(b) Particulars of Housing Schemes in hand or contemplated: Application made to Ministry of Health for sanction to build 650 houses.

(c) Important changes in population during period under review or anticipated in the future: None.

(d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses: None.

3. Overcrowding—

Number of cases of overcrowding which have been relieved in the course of slum clearance operations: None.

Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding: None.

Particulars with respect to overcrowding, e.g., causes: Overcrowding is due to the shortage of houses, and has nothing to do with the inability to pay rents.

4. Fitness of Houses—

Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts: None.

Number of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply: 73.

5. Action taken during the year regarding Clearance Areas:—

None.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(1) MILK SUPPLY.—Action taken with regard to—

The administration of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926: Premises inspected periodically by Sanitary Inspectors, and samples of milk submitted for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

The Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 & 1938—

Number of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the Local Authority during 1944 in respect of:—

“Tuberculin Tested” Milk:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| (i) Bottling: None. | (ii) Distribution: None. |
| (i) Bottling: None. | (ii) Distribution: None. |

“Accredited” Milk:

Number of licences issued in respect of “Pasteurised” milk:—
Pasteurising plants: None. Retail Distributors: 3.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for Graded Milk: None.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS and Milkshops—

Are they periodically inspected?—Yes.

How often?—Frequently.

What is their condition?—Generally satisfactory.

Has any owner undertaken (voluntarily) structural alterations or improvements to farm buildings, e.g., re-modelling of cowsheds?—No.

Farms.

Number of dairy farms: 98.

Approximate number of cows in the district: 1,000.

Cowkeepers.

Number of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms): 98.

Number of inspections during the year: 90.

Dairymen or purveyors of milk (other than cowkeepers)—

Number of dairymen or milk purveyors: 6.

Action taken by Local Authority as to—

(i) Tuberculous Milk:—

Number of samples submitted for biological test: 30.

Result—Positive: 2. Negative: 28.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations: None.

(iii) Sediment tests: None.

(2) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS—

(a) Action taken with regard to meat and other foods, including inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared: Inspected from time to time by Sanitary Inspector.

Number of legal proceedings and result: None.

(b) Public slaughterhouse: None provided.

(c) Food poisoning.—Action taken: No cases reported.

6.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Hospital Accommodation provided or available.—

For Smallpox: Arrangements made with Liverpool Corporation.

Number of beds: 5 (minimum).

Where situate: Within the City of Liverpool.

Is the Hospital used by “agreement” or “arrangement”:

Agreement on the basis of one bed for each 10,000 of population.

For other Infectious diseases: Isolation Hospital.

Number of beds: 84.

Where situate: Delph Lane, Whiston.

Is the Hospital used by "agreement" or "arrangement"?—

Joint Hospital Board for Whiston Rural, and Huyton and Prescot Urban Districts.

Or, if a Joint Hospital, is the district a constituent authority?—Yes.

Infectious Diseases Generally.—

Brief review of the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during 1944: Scarlet Fever was prevalent throughout the year, continuing from the latter half of the year before. In the second half of the year Measles was very prevalent, mostly of a mild type. Of the 51 cases of dysentery, 49 came from the County Mental Hospital, where the disease has been prevalent for some years. They were of the Flexner type.

Brief particulars of the clinical type and spread of Diphtheria and Cerebro-Spinal Fever: Of the four cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever, three were notified from the Whiston County Hospital and all resided outside the district. The other case appeared to be a doubtful one.

Local action taken in regard to the use of Measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation: None.

Particulars of any existing facilities for the typing of Pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera: One-third of the total cases of Pneumonia were notified from the Whiston County Hospital, of patients admitted for treatment from outside districts. These were all in the first part of the year, since when only cases from our own area have been notified, which is quite in order and much more satisfactory. If any have been notified before admission I can then disregard them.

Notes on the supply and prompt use of—

(a) Diphtheria anti-toxin: Supplied free on request.

Are supplies readily available?—Yes.

If so, where kept —Isolation Hospital, Whiston.

(b) Anti-meningococcus serum: No applications.

Are supplies readily available?—No.

Any other vaccines or sera supplied free to medical practitioners: None.

State whether the following diseases were compulsorily notifiable in the District during 1944, and for what period.—

Measles (prior to 23rd October, 1944): Yes, through the year.

Whooping Cough (prior to 23rd October, 1944): Yes, throughout the year.

Diarrhoea (under two years): No.

Chicken-pox: No.

Any others: None.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations—

Number of specimens examined in 1944:—

(a) Diphtheria: 62. (b) Scarlet Fever: None. (c) Enteric Fever: 2. (d) Miscellaneous: None.

Immunisation.—

Diphtheria—Action taken to provide artificial immunisation:—

(a) In hospitals, residential institutions or schools: None.

(b) At special clinics or day schools: Immunisation of children of both school and pre-school age, is carried on at day schools.

(c) Otherwise that (a) or (b): At a church hall, a considerable distance from any school.

Is immunisation material supplied free to medical practitioners?—
Yes, on request.

Number of children immunised during the year:—

(i) Pre-school children: 417. Prophylactics used: A.P.T.

(ii) School children: 299. Prophylactics used: A.P.T.

(iii) Adults: None.

Any post-Schick tests undertaken: None.

Scarlet Fever.—Any action taken to provide artificial immunisation:
None.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING 1944.

Notifiable Diseases.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.														Hospital	
	Total Cases at all Ages.	Age Periods—Years.										Total Deaths.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.		
		Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	6—	7—	8—	9— and over.					
Smallpox . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	215	...	2	1	13	18	123	36	13	7	1	1	...	1	150	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	60	...	...	1	2	2	15	10	7	18	5	...	...	1	60	1
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Measles (excluding German Measles)	266	6	30	33	41	39	100	7	3	3	2	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	90	8	18	15	13	8	28	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	57	5	1	1	6	3	10	3	3	9	9	4	3	17	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	17	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	4	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute polio-encephalitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	7	23	6	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum (See also page 15).	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria, Contracted— In this Country . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abroad	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g., Chicken-pox . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other Disease . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	774	21	51	51	76	71	276	56	29	77	26	29	11	19	211	1

Disinfection after Infectious Disease.—

Number of houses disinfected during 1944: 229.

Method: Formaldehyde.

Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, etc.: Steam.

Where is apparatus situated?—County Hospital, Whiston.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944.

Age Periods. Years.	*New Cases.		Deaths.	
	Respiratory.		Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	1	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	3	—
10—	—	—	5	—
15—	—	2	3	—
20—	2	3	—	1
25—	4	2	1	—
35—	5	2	—	1
45—	1	1	—	1
55—	3	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—
Totals	15	10	13	3
	25	16	10	4

What is the ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths?One-seventh.

Any action taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify: None.

Any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district: Coal miners are more often affected than workers in other industries.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations relating to Tuberculous employees in the milk trade: None.

Public Health Act, 1936.

Any action taken under section 172, Public Health Act, 1936: None.

7.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Maternity and Child Welfare work is carried out by the County Council.

CASES OF OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM DURING 1944.

CASES.			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Number Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
2	1	1	2	....	....	None

(Signed) T. U. MERCER.

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1945.

COMPARISON OF RATES.

RATES PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION:—

	England & Wales.	Whiston R.D.C.
LIVE BIRTHS	17.6	23.2
STILL BIRTHS	0.64	0.52
DEATHS—		
All Causes	11.6	10.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.03
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.00
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03
Influenza	0.12	0.06
Small-Pox	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.01	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births—		
Deaths under one year of age	46	56
Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.8	13.3
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)—		
Puerperal Infection	0.28	0.00
Others	1.25	1.31
TOTAL	1.53	1.31

